

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 23-32 are currently pending. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 23, 24, and 29 to clarify the present invention. Applicants have amended claim 2 to correct a typographical error. Applicants have amended claim 28 to correct an error in dependency. Further, Applicants concurrently submit a declaration under Rule 1.132 by Julio P. Focaracci to overcome the grounds for rejection cited by Examiner. Reconsideration of these claims is kindly requested based on the above and the arguments below.

I. Response Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 and Traverse

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 23-32 as failing to meet the requirements of enablement. As the declaration of Julio P. Focaracci makes clear, the application as filed enables one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the present invention without undue experimentation based on the guidance and examples provided in the application and the microarray substrates with porous layers known in the art. Further, Applicants have amended the claims 1 and 4 to clarify that the porous layer is coupled to the substrate, and claim 2 to clarify that the portion of porous layer onto which the microarray is to be positioned does not receive substantial heating.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 23-32 as failing to meet the requirements of written description. As the declaration of Julio P. Focaracci makes clear, the application as filed describes the features of the present invention based on the figures, definitions, descriptions, and examples provided in the specification to convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the inventors had possession of the invention at the time the application was filed.

Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Response Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 and Traverse

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 23-32 as failing to meet the requirement of definiteness. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 4 to clarify the present invention related to moat formation. Applicants respectfully disagree that the recitation in claim 1 of “porous layer” lacks antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 2 to correct a typographical error in the

word "heating." Applicants respectfully disagree that "positioning an array" is indefinite. The specification makes clear that positioning an array defines placing the array on the substrate, for example, by spotting as demonstrated in [0044] and Fig. 3 of the present application. Applicants have amended claim 23 to replace "thermal path" with functional features. Applicants have amended claim 24 to provide the action of the vacuum head. Applicants have amended claim 28 to correct the improper dependency. Now, the claim depends on claim 26, which has the first, second, and third linear actuators. Finally, claim 29 has been amended to reword the inspection feature according to Examiner's suggestion.

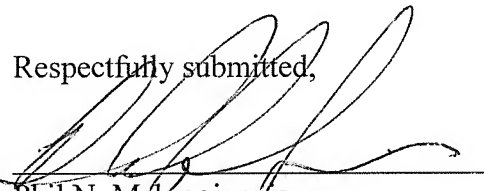
Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

Fee Authorization

Should any extension of time and/or fee be necessary for timely submission of this paper, such extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 01-2213 (order no. 5280)**. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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